

or conception. Some persons, perhaps, will not think themselves to be much beholden to me for the compliment; but yet I verily believe, that there are such parrots to be met with in many a fine library in England. I hope, however, that all my little readers, when they take a book into their hands, will be resolved to understand it as they go along; and if they should happen to meet with a word or a sentence which they cannot tell the meaning of, it will be much better for them to consult their papas or mamas, or some other person who can assist them, than to continue dunces as long as they live.

The last curiosity you will find in the library, is an odd picture over the doorway as you are going out. It represents a tall, meagre, lanthorn-jawed, hollow-eyed, raw-boned fellow, who has his mouth as full of victuals as he can cram it, and the greatest plenty of all manner of provisions around him; some lying upon the tables, some upon the chairs, and

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a large quantity upon the ground; he is almost buried in victuals, looks as if he would devour the world. But this greedy and voracious though he eats so much, cannot, of him, grow a single ounce; but, after all, appears as lean and favoured as if he had not tasted a whole fortnight together. It is a wonder, for he swallows food which he cannot possibly digest; which were to feed moderately, and at a time, what he eats would then be to him. This, the Librarian tells you, is an emblem of what a *Book-glutton*; that is, a person who measures his learning, by the number of books he hath acquired. Take care, then, when you begin to read an author, not to meddle with another, until you are completely master of the first. With this proviso, you may, and